

Legislative Memorandum from:



David Lamendola
Director
Government Affairs
New York and Connecticut

158 State Street
10th Floor
Albany, NY 12207
Phone: 518 704-2073

COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATION

House Bill 7152: An Act Accelerating the deployment of 5G wireless facilities.

Before the Committee on Energy & Technology March 5, 2019

In his inaugural address to Connecticut, Governor Lamont outlined his aspirational goal of bringing 5G high-speed mobile broadband to CT by facilitating and establishing a uniform process to help wireless carriers like Verizon secure access to state properties, buildings and structures in order to expand and enhance wireless service in Connecticut.

Verizon is on the record after the Governors announcement that "It will take active cooperation between private industry and state, federal, and local government to make Connecticut attractive for the infrastructure investment needed to enhance 4G network capacity and prepare for 5G arrival in CT".

Wireless communication services have become an integral part of our everyday lives. Public safety and personal security, education and entertainment, health care, fitness and finance, all depend on a robust, modern wireless networks. Our lives at home, work and school are more connected than ever due to the proliferation of wireless services.

Advanced wireless technologies will help fuel and support significant economic-development benefits, including the development of virtual and augmented reality applications, industrial automation, connected devices ("internet of things") and driverless cars.

Today, over half of Connecticut's residents no longer use traditional landline services and communicate solely through their wireless devices. More than 70% of all 911 calls are now made from wireless devices. Additionally, the rate of wireless data transmissions continue to experience exponential growth, with estimates that by 2020, mobile data traffic will be nearly six times what it was just three years ago.

As our customers add more wireless devices and find more ways to use them, we, their wireless service providers, are increasing the density of our networks to satisfy the customer's demand for service. Since 2000, Verizon has invested more than \$126 billion to meet today's surging demand for wireless data and video, and to get our networks ready for 5G wireless technology.

5G will usher in the Fourth Industrial Revolution—opening up a huge new set of products and mobile trends for our customers. Some of these benefits include high-speed data—connection speeds that are 30 to 50 times faster than 4G—responsiveness and unparalleled video quality.

In order to meet these ever-growing demands and position our company for a 5G future, Verizon needs to deploy “small cell” facilities in many communities throughout Connecticut. Opening access to state properties, state-owned buildings and structures and public rights of way under State Department of Transportation control is a logical and reasonable way for the state to ensure that these critical 5G networks are deployed as quickly as possible. For example, to help with capacity and coverage problems at the rest area along I-91 in Wallingford, it **may be extremely helpful if the wireless carriers could secure access to an existing light pole owned by the Department of Transportation in order to ensure visitors have wireless service at this location.** It would also be helpful if the carriers could have **access to the campuses of the State-owned Colleges and Universities.** Many of these campuses house students, educators and employees who are in dire need of advanced wireless services and are appealing to the carriers for future deployment plans.

Unfortunately, Verizon faces varying and inconsistent fees and siting procedures at state agencies that can slow, and in some cases, deter our ability to deploy this new and modern infrastructure. With a vast array of state agencies that may have space available for siting use, compliance is often time consuming and costly. This results in fewer services for residents and businesses looking for more wireless capacity.

Verizon supports this proposal and thanks the Governor, Committee Chairs and lawmakers for providing us an opportunity to comment on this important legislation since it would spur significant infrastructure investment and accelerate mobile broadband deployment in Connecticut. **The coalition of wireless industry representative are working with the administration on improvements to the bill and expect to provide the Committee with comments and proposed changes** to the bill’s language that we believe will enhance its overall effectiveness.

For all the above reasons, Verizon requests that this measure be enacted with appropriate amendments attached.